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GOVERNMENT ACCUSES U.S. OF LEAKING RIGHTS COMMISSION REPORT

PY150122 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0040 GMT 15 Dec 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (TELAM)--The Argentine Foreign Ministry tonight issued the following communique:

The Foreign Relations Ministry has become aware of a press release issued today, 14 December, by the Council on Economic Affairs in Washington, according to which the spokesman of this organization reported that his organization has been told by "high-ranking sources of the Carter administration" that the Inter-American Human Rights Commission report on Argentina will have certain characteristics. These characteristics have led the spokesman to say that this report will give rise to significant changes within the Argentine Government.

Should these remarks prove to be true, it would mean that there has been a serious breach of the secrecy which must be observed regarding the procedures of this commission, and this would reveal a total lack of responsibility on the part of the high-ranking U.S. officials who reportedly released this information to an organization well-known for its hostility and bias toward the Argentine Government.

This attitude could cast doubt on the objectivity with which the Argentine situation is being evaluated, and would prove the true political objectives which certain circles have in mind with regard to the report of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission.

VIDELA REVIEWS NATIONAL ISSUES IN PRESS CONFERENCE

PY142243 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0132 GMT 14 Dec 79 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 13 Dec (NA)--Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla today disclosed that the proposal which the armed forces will issue on 19 December will define "what kind of country we want in the political, economic, social and cultural areas." It will, moreover, open the possibility for dialog "to enrich this proposal" and transform it into a "summons which will permit the continuation of the (national reorganization) process."

During a press conference, Videla stated that "the process cannot be followed by an antiprocess, but rather by a continuation of the process, with the convergence of the military and civilian sectors." The press conference, held in the White Room of Government House, started at 1700 and ended at 1820. In his press conference, the president also included an end-of-the-year address to the nation.

Videla said that "dialog will enrich our own ideas and will generate a reciprocal commitment of participation." In this regard he reasserted that "everyone is invited to this dialog. Only the corrupt, criminals and those who want to place themselves on the margins will be excluded from it."

Answering several questions, the president said that "when we speak of civilian-military convergence, we are not speaking of a pact, or an agreement; we are speaking of a convergence, that is, trying to unite our efforts to achieve a common objective." The president answered affirmatively when asked if he planned to continue in office until the end of his term. Videla explained that he does not foresee any immediate substantial changes among "presidential advisers, ministers or even governors. With regard to this, I do not see any change whatsoever." He remarked that one of his most important concerns at this time is to make everything ready for the transfer of power within a line of continuity.

When asked if the government is aware of what workers think about the recently approved labor law, the president answered that he did not have any notion of "their true feelings."

Without directly mentioning it, he alluded to the CUTA [Unified Leadership of Argentine Workers] by saying that "it is purely political, having a political objective that exploits the possibility of making social demands." Videla added: "It is not, therefore, an authentic representative of the logical aspirations and motivations of the average man, of the average worker, who is not involved in achieving a political objective or in keeping privileges but in defending his salary, in increasing his assets for himself and his family." According to Videla, "These are the concerns of the average man, of the average worker. This organization (the CUTA) does not share these same motivations, however."

When asked what would prevent him from completing his term, he answered: "Good question. I can answer only part of that question: first, if I, for personal reasons, either cannot or do not want to continue: and secondly for other reasons which are beyond my control--if those who entrusted me with this mandate and who are also able to remove me from it were to say to me: goodbye. There are no other reasons."

The president rejected any possibility of changes in the plans of the process to achieve civilian-military convergence, because he said that this would be demagogy. He noted that the plans could be perfected but that "they could not be completely revised, because "if this is done then the convergence would end up being merely a contrivance."

Regarding international policy Videla said that the first priority consists of the countries in the region, primarily neighboring countries, and the second of all countries throughout the world with which Argentina maintains and will maintain relations, but without making any ideologic commitments.

He also defended the law which presumes dead those who are allegedly missing. He said that some people wanted everyone to believe that the law was issued to cover up "a hidden, potential or perpetrated" crime. He noted that the objective of this law was to address the painful hardships which families experienced during the [subversive] war.

Videla said that Panama had not started any proceedings to obtain permission for Maria Estela Martinez de Peron to take up residence in that country.

He reasserted that "the subversive apparatus" of terrorism "is completely destroyed," and that "those who are reappearing are some remnants which have been reintroduced into the country." The president remarked: "We know the war is not over and that it will manifest itself on the ideological and military levels. We cannot guarantee that these types of events will not happen again."

He said that at this time "there is a decrease" in international pressure against Argentina, "because the image that some want to project of Argentina is being compared to the real situation in our country."

Videla said: "The Peronist party, in its present condition or as we have known it, does not have a place in the democratic regime." He added that "if Peronist party members change their ideas and rearrange the party structure in accordance with a democratic regime with representatives elected in a democratic manner if the Peronist party stops pursuing demagogy and a personality cult and if it would cease to be the Peronist party as we have known it, then it will have a place."

Regarding missing persons, Videla said that "as long as the person is missing this will continue to be a mystery. Once he reappears he will have special treatment, but while he still missing there cannot be any special treatment because he is a nonentity, he is neither dead or alive." Regarding detainees, the president said that there were periodic modifications in the situation of those who are at the disposal of the executive branch. They are either put under house arrest, or given the option of leaving the country or other alternatives. The president recognized that "there is also the case of those persons who, despite not receiving due process, cannot live in freedom because they do not deserve to have this privilege."

COMMUNIQUE ON BEAGLE NEGOTIATIONS RELEASED

PY142025 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1710 GMT 14 Dec 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Dec [as received], (TELAM)--At 1400 the Foreign Ministry released a communique from the Vatican which refers to the Argentine-Chilean negotiations on the Beagle Channel. It indicates that during the past 15 days the two delegations have studied other aspects of the matters which have been under discussion, with a view to achieving additional agreements and making every effort to understand the viewpoints of the other party as a first step toward achieving an understanding in the less defined areas. The communique also reports that, at the same time, an understanding has been reached about the inclusion of new points in the initial agenda, which has already been approved. It insists that his agenda must be followed until study--after the year-end holidays--of all the controversial points of the disagreement has been completed in order to arrive at a solution. Lastly, it insists that no information on the subject is valid if it does not come from the Vatican itself.

JOINT ECONOMIC AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH BRAZIL

PY151901 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0126 GMT 15 Dec 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (TELAM)--The round of negotiations held here between Argentine Foreign Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz and Brazilian Finance Minister Carlos Rischbieter ended here today with the signing of a joint communique that expresses optimism "in view of the present cordial relations between the two countries and because reciprocal cooperation and exchange within the framework of international economy offers numerous perspectives and potentials."

The communique, issued during a press conference held by the Brazilian finance minister, expresses the satisfaction of both parties for the marked improvement in bilateral trade. It increased by 80.4 percent in the first 9 months of this year in comparison with the same period of the previous year. Moreover, it estimates that overall reciprocal trade will total a record figure of about $1.5 billion in 1979.

The communique states that both parties agree that the reorganization of LAFTA [Latin American Free Trade Association] "must provide member countries which have decided to start ambitious undertakings with real tools of integration tariffs."

Moreover, the communique adds that the parties agree on immediately starting joint studies that will establish a growing commercial integration between the two countries for the greatest possible quantity of products. It is agreed that the freight costs for wheat transported to Brazil should be substantially decreased.

It is established that the Argentine and Brazilian central banks will increase the level of reciprocal credit agreements to $120 million. This agreement was signed in 1968 and the level was established at $30 million. In 1976 this level was raised to $70 million. The communique notes that both central banks agreed "to study the possibility of freely exchanging each others currency--observing certain limits--in relation to reciprocal tourism." The communique adds that they discussed the possibility of carrying out studies for the supply of natural gas to Brazil. It also notes that both countries are interested in undertaking joint programs.

Argentine Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz delivered a brief speech before the reading of the joint communique. He stated that "there is nothing that could become a serious obstacle" in Argentine-Brazilian relations. He stated that both countries "have established certain guidelines for the reorganization of LAFTA. We believe that it is very important for us to reach an agreement in this issue." Regarding the future organization of LAFTA he said he hopes it is flexible "and that it will allow us to achieve those undertakings we see feasible both between our nations and with the other Latin American nations." He noted that "we have to take the initiative in this regard since this will raise the level of our trade to unbelievable limits." He asserted that Brazil and Argentina can complement their economies and that "we would like to see Argentina and Brazil as partners in this panorama of economic development that the world is offering us. If we work jointly with our brothers and Latin American neighbors we will be able to greatly strengthen the position of our countries in a troubled world that offers us an unlimited horizon."

For his part, Brazilian Finance Minister Carlos Rischbieter noted that he is following very closely Argentina's economic plan and added that it is "one of the best plans in force in the world. It is a completely coherent plan, a plan that will enable Argentina, once it is fully accomplished, to have a new basis for a prosperous future." He added that he had discussed here the recent changes introduced into the Brazilian economy, "which is becoming more like a market economy. This will enable a greater integration between Argentina and Brazil." After alluding to the cordiality which Brazil and Argentina have at both the government and business level, he stated: I return to my country very happy because I believe we now have all the necessary conditions to achieve this integration, this cooperation--something all of us aspire to."

Answering some journalists' questions, Rischbieter admitted that his country has certain problems that Argentina does not, such as oil. Brazil must import 80 percent of its oil supply. In view of the statement made by the president of Volkswagen, who said that Brazil must repeal its law on imported cars which, through the principle of reciprocity, will enable an exchange of cars with Argentina, Rischbieter said that he is taking to his country all the necessary data so that a decision which will take industrial interests into account will be made in this regard.

He said that the Brazilian foreign debt totals $40 billion and its annual interest [servicio] totals about 6 billion pesos. He noted that inflation in his country will total 70 percent this year, that there will be more minidevaluations of the cruzeiro and that tariffs may be lowered in some sectors. He said that Brazil and Argentina share very similar positions regarding LAFTA. He noted that both countries want this organization to have flexible mechanisms. He added that the Brazilian Government gives priority to the agriculture and energy sectors.

SOCIALISTS' QUIROGA DISCLOSES 'CIVILIAN-MILITARY CONSPIRACY'

PY140244 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2132 GMT 13 Dec 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 13 Dec (LATIN)--Socialist Party leader Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz today disclosed before the Chamber of Deputies the existence of a "civilian-military conspiracy" which once again seeks to disrupt the Bolivian democratic process. Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz, who is also a national deputy, made his report at a public session and asked the executive boards of both chambers to call an "urgent" meeting of the Congress to "outline a position in view of the dangers which are threatening democracy."

"No one is unaware that there is at this very instant a subversive threat which seeks to take advantage of the atmosphere of popular resistance against the economic policy of President Lidia Gueiler," Quiroga Santa Cruz said to the journalists. When asked to provide more details about his announcement, the deputy for and chief of the Socialist Party merely stated: "The conspiracy is moving forward, and the parliament must outline its position stating that we are ready to resist any attempt at disrupting Bolivian democracy, as we did on 1 November, during Colonel (Alberto) Natusch's coup." Quiroga Santa Cruz added: "The same coupist sector which perpetrated the bloody coup d'etat on 1 November is trying to create state of subversion in Bolivia."

Congress Denounces 'Seditious Atmosphere'

PY141648 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0819 GMT 14 Dec 79 PY

[By Gerardo Irusta]

[Text] La Paz, 14 Dec (LATIN)--The possibility of a coup d'etat in Bolivia surfaced again today after the Bolivian Congress made known a resolution reporting "an evident worsening of a seditious atmosphere" creating a climate of caution among all political forces.

Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz, deputy and leader of the Socialist Party, was the first to voice his concern at a public session in the lower chamber about the "existence of a civilian-military conspiracy" which allegedly seeks to interrupt the democratic process.

The leaders of the chambers of Deputies and Senators met yesterday to discuss reports about this seditious movement. Nothing was reported to the news media, but a few minutes later the National Congress held a special session, interrupting momentarily the formal questioning of President Lidia Gueiler's ministers in the economic sector, "to consider the delicate internal political situation." Deputies and senators unanimously approved a resolution which warns of "the evident worsening of a seditious atmosphere publicy supported by civil and military sectors."

According to the congressional resolution, those who support the seditious movement "express the same interests which motivated the 1 November coup." On that date Col Albert Natusch Busch took over the government by a coup d'etat which caused bloodshed when forces under his command harshly suppressed popular movements opposed to his regime.

"It is the duty of the National Congress to warn the Bolivian people in a timely manner about the danger of a new interruption of the democratic process," the congressional resolution states.

It concludes by pointing out "its unswerving decision to watch and defend the democratic process which the people have achieved with their blood, faced with the repetition of a campaign that is seditious and opposed to the democratic aspiration of the Bolivian people and the national interest."

The government of President Lidia Gueiler Tejada has not released an official communique regarding these reports, but some of her ministers, including Labor Minister Oscar Garcia, have acknowledged the existence of "rumors of that possibility."

Military Denies Coup Rumors

PY141954 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1751 GMT 14 Dec 79 PY

[By Rene Villegas]

[Excerpts] La Paz, 14 Dec (LATIN)--The Bolivian Armed Forces today categorically denied any connection with an alleged coup and termed as groundless the accusations in the Congress that there exists a climate of conspiracy against the democratic process in the country.

Gen Armando Reyes Villa, commander in chief of the armed forces, had a meeting today with interim President Lidia Gueiler to assure her of the military's full support for the constitutional powers, including her government, official sources reported. General Reyes Villa told newsmen who interviewed him on leaving Government Palace: "I do not know who is spreading this type of rumor or why." The commander in chief of the armed forces added today that "the rumors concerning coup-prone militarymen should stop," asserting that "there is absolute unity in the armed forces," whose units and officers fully respect his authority, he explained.

After her meeting with General Reyes Villa, President Gueiler went on a 2-day trip today to Cochabamba and Santa Cruz departments in the central and eastern parts of the country, respectively. When she left her office she had a short chat with newsmen and showed optimism over the internal political situation of the country. She jokingly asked the newsmen to "take care of the chair for me" during her absence. When asked about the alleged threat of a coup and the charge in the Congress, the president confirmed her conviction that "no one in this country intends to interrupt the process" and stated her "absolute trust" in the armed forces as an institution respecting that process and the democratic constitution.

In her desire to approach the medium-level commands of the armed forces, the president had breakfast yesterday with the officers of the Ingavi Regiment, one of the most powerful in the La Paz garrison, and then stated that they had expressed to her their "full respect for the constitution." Referring to that meeting, a high army source told LATIN today that "the president can find the same atmosphere in any garrison of the country."

COCHABAMBA OFFICIAL REPORTS 'SUBVERSIVE MACHINATIONS'

PY150206 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Dec 79 PY

[Direct relay from Cochabamba correspondent]

[Text] The prefect of Cochabamba has reported subversive machinations aimed against the current democratic process and government.

In an interview with the press, Prefect Perez Beltran stated that the machinations are being conducted by former militarymen and peasant leaders whose names will be released in due time.

At the same time, Beltran said that government security organizations have detected that representatives of the military and peasant leaders have held a series of meetings in Cochabamba. During these meetings, they apparently reached a number of agreements aimed at a coup d'etat.

The prefect emphasized during his meeting with the press that he will be strict in the implementation of constitutional provisions to defend the current democratic process.

CABINET AVOIDS CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES CENSURE MOTION

PY150233 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2330 GMT 14 Dec 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 14 Dec (LATIN)--President Lidia Gueiler's cabinet today managed to avoid a motion of censure proposed to the Chamber of Deputies as a result of the recent economic measures issued by the government which led to violent popular reaction last week.

The congressional blocs of the Socialist Party and the leftist Democratic and Popular Unity (UDP) questioned the cabinet for 6 days until early this morning in one of the longest congressional debates of the current legislative period. The two political blocs demanded a vote of censure against the ministers "due to the monetary nature" of the economic measures, which included a 25-percent devaluation of the Bolivian peso and an increase of the prices of gasoline and public transportation. The questioners criticized the government for not having discussed the measures with the parliament before issuing them.

However, most of the congressional bloc of the centrist Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance (MNR)--led by former President Victor Paz Estenssoro--which participates in the government, prevented a censure of the cabinet which would have prompted its collective resignation. The Chamber of Deputies this morning merely voted for the "day's agenda," which implied neither criticism or support of the cabinet and made a lengthy analysis of the government's economic policy, recommending that corrective measures be included in the future.

ROADBLOCKS LIFTED IN ORURO DEPARTMENT

PY140140 La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 13 Dec 79 PY

[Excerpt] The government has announced through Interior Minister Selum Vaca Diez that roadblocks have been discontinued in Oruro Department after a 17-item agreement was signed with peasant leaders. At the same time, reports received by our radio station indicate that roadblocks continue in La Paz Department, especially in the Yungas region.

PRESIDENT PINOCHET SWEARS IN NEW CABINET MINISTERS

FY141630 Paris AFP in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Dec 79 FY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 14 Dec (AFP)--Chilean President Augusto Pinochet today swore in seven new ministers at the end of the military government's cabinet reshuffle. The entire cabinet resigned Thursday, but apart from the seven new appointments, General Pinochet confirmed the other ministers.

The civilian ministers who were confimed in their positions are Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos and Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez, who is also the chief of the cabinet.

Engineer Jose Luis Federici was sworn in as economy minister, lawyer Alfredo Prieto as education minister, Gen Alejandro Medina as public health minister, Gen Rene Peri as lands minister, Gen Caupolican Boisset as transport minister, Gen Sergio Badiola as minister secretary general of government, and Gen Julio Fernandez as chief of the advisory committee to the president with the rank of minister.

During the brief ceremony, President Pinochet was accompanied by the members of the military junta: Adm Jose Toribio Merino, Gen Cesar Mendoza and Gen Fernando Matthei. Pinochet also accepted the resignation of eight under secretaries in the ministries of finance, Economy, Education, Health, Mining, Justice, Fishing and Transport. The changes were described as "a normal adjustment" in connection with the end of the year, and the swearing-in ceremony was held at noon today at Government House.

JUNTA MEMBER SCORES U.S. 'INSOLENCE' IN LETELIER CASE

FY142256 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1703 GMT 14 Dec 79 FY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 14 Dec (LATIN)--Adm Jose Toribio Merino, member of the government junta, referred to the reprisals against Chile adopted by the United States as "insolence." These reprisals were taken after the Chilean courts dismissed a U.S. extradition request for three military officers said to have been involved in the murder of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier. The commander in chief of the navy said that Chile is a free and sovereign country, and that the decision was not made by the government but by the courts, which acted in the conviction that there was no evidence to permit the extradition.

At a press conference, Admiral Merino reviewed Chile's international relations with neighboring countries and the measures adopted by the White House in suspending Eximbank credits, Eximbank guarantees for private companies' operations with Chile and military assistance.

As for relations with Argentina, Merino said that "they are fine; we are pleased because there have been no air or maritime space violations, and we believe that the replacement of Gen Roberto Viola by Gen Fortunato Gualtieri will be positive."

Regarding relations with Peru and Bolivia, Admiral Merino stated that "they continue the same because nothing has happened." He revealed that Bolivia has been granted, "as a sign of friendship, a 10-year authorization for the use of the Sica Sica oil pipeline to the city of Arica, including pipelines extending into the Chilean Sea."

MORALES BERMUDEZ CALLS ARMY COUNTRY'S 'INSURANCE'

PA150320 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 8 Dec 79 p 1 PA

[Excerpt] Lima, 7 Dec (ESI-PERU)--President Francisco Morales Bermudez today stressed that the army and the country's other military institutions are the "great insurance of the fatherland." They contribute to the national development and he flatly denied that they have solely a militarist function.

Morales Bermudez urged the army members to basically maintain the unity of "our sacred institution despite what has happened in the past, what is happening in the present and what may occur in the future." He also praised the efforts of the army over the past few years in the areas of technology, training and professionalism "which we witnessed recently in the maneuvers carried in southern Peru."

He said that this progress is the result of the army's continuous efforts and the "efforts of many of those who are present here and who have contributed to our feeling proud of our army today." The head of state praised the value of the army, "which lives in our fatherland through history and which has made history," during the traditional reunion meeting [reunion del reencuentro] which gathered 65 graduating classes of the Chorrillos Military Academy during a military ceremony held there.

He said that the meeting was a recognition of "this sacred institution" and he paid homage to the military academy instructors, the men who taught us how to make decisions when we had to make them. He added that during difficult moments, such as when we had to face the economic and political crisis, and during times of doubt, we turn our thoughts and spirit back to the Chorrillos Military Academy.

POSITION ON TEHRAN HOSTAGE SITUATION DEFINED

PA141308 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 7 Dec 79 p 2 PA

[Editorial: "Statement on the Tehran Hostages"]

[Excerpts] In a declaration Monday in New York, during an urgent meeting called by Peru as chairman of the UN Latin American group, we reasserted "unchanging support for the norms of international law which guarantee the inviolability of diplomatic personnel and sites as well as diplomatic agents."

It is well to note that our country has reasserted its invariable respect for the principles and norms of human rights. It is well known that the Vienna convention of 1971 states in Article 29: "Diplomatic personnel are inviolable. They cannot be subjected to any form of detention or arrest. The host country will take all adequate measures to prevent any attack on the person of a diplomat, his freedom or his dignity." Naturally, this is not the only article of this convention, drafted to guarantee the work carried out by a diplomatic mission, even though some officials are not strictly members of the diplomatic corps.

Therefore, our country guides its actions according to international treaties, customs and human rights. In appealing for the release of the hostages in Tehran, it does not take an unfriendly attitude toward that nation. It pleads, with respect for international law, for the lives of many innocents and for reason and justice.

IRAN TO PROPOSE OPEC OIL EMBARGO AGAINST U.S.

PA152231 Paris AFP in Spanish 2149 GMT 15 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 15 Dec (AFP)--Iran will ask the members of OPEC for an oil embargo against the United States, the Caracas daily EL MUNDO affirmed today. Iranian Economy Minister 'Ali Akbar Mo'Infar arrived last night in Caracas to attend the 55th OPEC conference opening on Monday. The ministers of Gabon, Algeria and the United Arab Emirates also arrived last night. Quoting sources in the Iranian delegation, EL MUNDO pointed out that this embargo would be a way to put pressure on the U.S. Government to turn the former shah over to Iran. EL MUNDO added that the Iranian minister this morning began discussions with the other three OPEC ministers who are already in Caracas. These talks, according to the newspaper, were held at a luxurious hotel that has been fortified as a precaution and from which newsmen are restricted.

The departure of former Shah Reza Pahlavi for Panama was unknown when the newspaper was published and expectation regarding the U.S.-Iranian crisis is mounting here as it is feared that there will be a hardening in the U.S.-Iranian positions.

To Raise Oil Price

PA161925 Paris AFP in Spanish 1758 GMT 16 Dec 79 PA

[By Jean Louis Lemarchand]

[Text] Caracas, 16 Dec (AFP)--Iranian oil minister 'Ali Mo'Infar said here today an immediate hike in the price of Iranian oil is necessary as a result of the recent Saudi decision to raise the reference price per barrel to $24. The minister said Iranian authorities have not made a decision yet but it would seem normal to eliminate the $5.50 difference in the price of Saudi and Iranian oil that dates back to June.

Iran is selling its oil officially for $23.30, the Iranian minister said, noting on the eve of the OPEC conference the real price should be at least $35. This is the price of competitive energy substitutes, and the cost per barrel of oil can actually be between $35 and $55, Mo'Infar added.

Regarding the Caracas conference, the Iranian minister said his country will go along with the majority of OPEC members because we attach great importance to OPEC unity. Mo'Infar felt the new price set by Saudi Arabia on Thursday ($24 per barrel) is valid only for 1979 and now OPEC should set a new price for 1980. The $24 price, he added, is a step in the direction of the real price of oil. Saudi Arabia made the hike retroactive to 1 November.

Mo'Infar said he favors replacing the dollar for a basket of currencies when the new price is set. He added that his country has to sell its oil to the free market because the United States decided to suspend Iranian oil imports in November. Iran sold about 700,000 barrels of oil a day to the United States and it currently produces 3.5 million barrels a day, 3 million of which, according to experts, are exported. Mo'Infar said Iran did not suspend deliveries to the United States. The U.S. decision was the first such decision ever made by a consuming country. Iran, he added, wants to have good relations with the American people, but he accused the U.S. Government of granting asylum to the criminal ex-shah.

To Pursue Dollar Boycott

PA161926 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1304 GMT 16 Dec 79 PA

[Excerpts] Caracas, 16 Dec (EFE)--Iran announced it will indefinitely boycott the dollar as the payment standard for its oil in international markets. Iranian Oil Minister 'Ali Akbar Mo'Infar made this announcement during a news conference here today on the eve of the opening of the OPEC conference.

The Iranian minister said his country will accept any legal currency for its oil except the dollar, even though he explained he will not ask the other OPEC members to follow this initiative against the dollar and the United States. However, the Iranian minister said if the degree of hostility against his country grows in the United States, Iran expects to have the "solidarity" of the other OPEC members. 'Ali Akbar Mo'Infar did not specify, however, what kind of "solidarity" measures his government expects from the "fraternal" OPEC nations. The Iranian minister said the industrialized nations are responsible for the problems of the developing countries, which suffer more from inflation exported through the high prices of manufactured goods than from the hike in price of the barrel of oil.

LIBYA RAISES PRICE OF OIL TO $30 PER BARREL

PA161648 Paris AFP in French 1638 GMT 16 Dec 79 PA

[Text]Caracas, 16 Dec (AFP)--Libyan Petroleum Minister 'Izz ad-Din al-Mabruk said here today that Libya has decided to raise the price of oil to $30 a barrel. The Libyan minister told newsmen the price hike is effective today. Al-Mabruk said "it is a technical decision" taking into account that last week Saudi Arabia raised the price of its oil from $18 to $24. The price of Libyan oil has been $26.27 per barrel for the best quality oil. This means an increase of 94 percent over the price at the end of 1978. Libya at present produces 2 million barrels a day, which places it among OPEC's top producers.

INDONESIA RAISES OIL PRICE BY $2 PER BARREL

PA162154 Paris AFP in English 2132 GMT 16 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, Dec 16 (AFP)--Indonesia today announced it was raising its oil price immediately to 25.50 dollars a barrel from 23.50 dollars. Indonesia now produces 1.6 million barrels of oil daily and will maintain that level in 1980, Indonesia Oil Minister Dr Subroto said here at the meeting of the 13-nation Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries [OPEC]. The minister said Indonesia would not sell oil on the spot market. The decision follows oil price hikes announced since Thursday by other OPEC members Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Libya.

BRIEFS

OIL INDUSTRY INVESTMENT--Amuay, Venezuela, 23 Nov (VENPRES)--Guillermo Rodriguez Eraso, president of Lagoven SA, a subdivision of Venezuelan Petroleum Company, stated today that in 1980 his firm will invest more than 3.6 billion bolivares in oil development programs. Rodriguez said 700 million bolivares will be set aside for drilling wells. [Caracas VENPRES in Spanish 1230 GMT 24 Nov 79 PA]

REPORTAGE ON SHAH'S ARRIVAL ON CONTADORA ISLAND

Length of Stay Unknown

PA160301 Paris AFP in English 0244 GMT 15 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Contadora Island, Panama, Dec 16 (AFP)--The deposed shah of Iran, guarded by machinegun-toting sentinels in a tropical paradise, sighed his thanks here on Saturday for the asylum [few words indistinct] he had received in Panama.

Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, with his former empress Farah Diba at his side, met briefly with reporters on the lawn of the pink two-story mansion where he is the guest of former Panamanian Ambassador to Washington Gabriel Lewis Galindo. Speaking in English, the former ruler said he hoped he could share the culture and civilization of the country which has offered him a home. Although he put a smiling face on the interview, the shah had the pallor and the haggard appearance of a man who just been released from hospital after anti-cancer treatments. After a brief statement, he rose and walked slowly into the house.

The ex-shah has found refuge here in a country which does not maintain diplomatic relations with Iran and which does not depend on Iranian oil. The Panamanian Government hopes to avoid the kind of repercussions which followed the shah's admission to the United States for medical treatment: seizure by radical Iranians of the American Embassy in Tehran with personnel there held hostage against the extradition of the former sovereign.

Mohammed Reza Pahlavi is well-guarded here by squads carrying automatic weapons. A radar system has been installed to detect unauthorized approaches, and the word locally is that frogmen lurk in the emerald waters surrounding the Pacific island just off the Panamanian coast to ward off any submarine marauders. The luxury villa is surrounded by lush vegetation and fronts on a lawn leading down to a beach of fine white sand. Nearby is a small landing strip to which his party was ferried on Saturday in American helicopters after a flight between U.S. air bases in Texas and Panama.

Robert Armao, the shah's spokesman and personal secretary, said he did not know how long the ex-emperor would stay here. "He is under doctors' orders to take a vacation" Mr Armao said. "He needs rest and sun and good food during his convalescence. Maybe later he will visit other parts of the country."

Informed sources in Panama said agents for the shah this weekend bought a 1,000-hectare [four square miles] property in Costa Rica, in the Pacific coast province of Guanacaste.

Press Surprised

PA151818 Paris AFP in English 1811 GMT 15 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Panama City, Dec 15 (AFP)--The White House announcement today that the deposed shah of Iran would be arriving shortly in Panama caused great surprise in Panamanian press circles, which were not informed of the government's decision to grant asylum to former Iranian ruler Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. There has been no official comment on the matter as yet, since President Aristides Royo and the entire government are currently absent from the capital.

Royo Explains Decision

PA151928 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1909 GMT 15 Dec 79 PA

[By Francisco Rubiales]

[Text] David, Panama, 15 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--President Aristides Royo said today the decision to welcome ex-shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was made for humanitarian reasons, to contribute to world peace. Panama, a small country of less than 2 million, decided to confront the Ayatollah Khomeyni's wrath by welcoming the deposed monarch without setting any conditions or deadlines. Royo told ACAN-EFE he is aware of the risks posed by this decision, but that humanitarianism and the solution to a conflict threatening world peace weigh more heavily on balance.

The former Iranian monarch, toppled by a religious revolution led by the Ayatollah Khomeyni in February, arrived in Panama today from the United States and landed at Howard Air Force Base, where four U.S. military helicopters were waiting to take him to Contadora Island, where he will take up residence.

In February, 1979 the former shah sent his son, Prince Pahlavi, and his former foreign minister and former ambassador to the United States, M. Zahedi, to Panama. They met with Panamanian Government officials and took a first-hand look at Contadora Island as a possible place to take up residence.

Shortly after the former shah's arrival in Panama, President Aristides Royo delivered the following exclusive statement to ACAN-EFE: "In February, 1979 we invited Mohammad Reza Pahlavi to come to Panama but his health at the moment did not allow it. The former Iranian monarch has agreed to come to Panama with his family now and we told President Carter we tendered the invitation to contribute to international peace. Panama is open to transit by all nations of the world. It is a country with a neutral canal in keeping with international treaties and it is also politically neutral. Therefore Panama thought it advisable to contribute to international peace. We invited the former monarch to remain in Panama as long as he wishes, without any sort of conditions and without any additional charges than those his stay will incur. A few hours ago we told President Carter again to send the former Iranian monarch to Panama, indicating that it will not do us any harm and might benefit President Carter. In addition to the argument that a neutral, independent, nonalined country such as Panama made this decision thinking that this small, neutral nation can contribute to the peaceful solution of a problem between two nations, there are historic and traditional arguments for the decision. Throughout Panama's history, our country was always a place of asylum, a promised land, a safe, reliable and calm place for the politically persecuted. Cuban forefather Antonio Maceo lived in Panama. Mexican forebear Benito Juarez was here. The great Ecuadorean statesman Eloy Alfaro spent his years in exile here. And in this century men like Argentina's Peron, Ecuador's Arosemena and many others have found our beaches to be a haven. Panama is a small, hospitable country with a high degree of international humanitarianism. It is a politically independent nation, having good relations with all nations of the world." Panama will protect the former Iranian monarch on Contadora Island from any type of terrorist attack on him and his family.

The former shah will live in the home of Gabriel Lewis Galindo, former Panamanian ambassador to the United States. It is a beautiful house on a tropical island paradise just a few miles wide. The island lies in Las Perlas archipelago in the Pacific, 20 minutes flight time from Panama City.

Shah Speaks to Newsmen

PA150250 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0216 GMT 16 Dec 79 PA

[Excerpts] Contadora Island, Panama, 15 Dec (LATIN-REUTER)--The deposed shah of Iran said today that he is happy and thankful to be in Panama at the invitation of the government and National Guard Commander Gen Omar Torrijos. The shah spoke briefly to newsmen at the comfortable island residence of former Panamanian Ambassador to Washington Gabriel Lewis Galindo. He was pale and tired, but he succeeded in always smiling during his brief talk to reporters. Dressed in a gray double-breasted suit and with Empress Farah at his side, the shah said he is sure he will have a marvelous time in Panama.

Panamanian President Aristides Royo, who was on a trip through Panama when the shah arrived aboard a U.S. Air Force plane, said that Panama had agreed to authorize his residence in order to contribute toward a peaceful solution to the crisis between Iran and Washington. President Royo said that the shah may stay in Panama indefinitely and added: "The visit of the shah of Iran to Panama will not cause any problems to our country." Panama does not have diplomatic relations with Iran and its petroleum needs are covered by Ecuador and Venezuela.

In brief statements to the press, the shah said that he and Empress Farah are very happy to be in Panama and are very grateful for its hospitality. "I am grateful for the invitation the Panamanian Government and General Torrijos made. I hope that I will soon be able to meet President Royo," he added. Before ending his short interview with the press, the shah voiced hopes for a happy and progressive future for the people and government of Panama. Robert Armao, the shah's spokesman, said that the excellent climate of Panama, the sun and good food are precisely what the former monarch's doctors had prescribed for his recuperation. "Contadora Island is the ideal place for him" Armao added.

TV Reports Shah's Statement

PA160414 [Editorial Report PA] Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish at 0315 GMT on 16 December carries a filmed report on the arrival in Panama of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. Reporter Fernando Eleta Casanova highlights the shah's arrival at Howard Air Force Base, his trip to Contadora Island, his lunch and his visit to his new home on the island. He adds that strict security measures surrounded the shah and his entourage. Eleta Casanova says that the shah's presence in Panama is an attempt to save the U.S. hostages in Tehran. He notes that the international press has not yet arrived in Contadora.

After a brief description of the shah's new place, Eleta Casanova says that the shah made exclusive statements to this television station but no questions were permitted. Speaking in English with simultaneous translation to Spanish the shah says: "My wife and I are very happy to have been received in such a hospitable way and are very thankful for the courteous invitation of the Republic of Panama and General Torrijos. From the minute we set foot in this beautiful country we have been very happy and we hope to have a beautiful and pleasant stay in your country. We will be very pleased to meet your president and become acquainted with the life and culture of Panama as well as with its beautiful natural scenery in the mountains and the coasts. I wish and pray that your people will enjoy a happy future always with prosperity and progress."

Eleta Casanova concludes by stating: "The eyes of the world are fixed on Panama tonight. The effects that the shah's presence will have on Panama and the world are still unpredictable. The truth is that it is an incalculable risk; however, if it brings about peace and detente in the Iranian crisis it will be worth it, and if not at least we offered some of our peace to a family which has suffered a lot in exile." The report ends at 0324 GMT.

President Royo Meets Shah

PA170030 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2356 GMT 16 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Contadora Island, Panama 16 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Panamanian President Aristides Royo reasserted today to the former shah of Iran, Mohammed Reza Phalavi, that his stay in this country is not limited by any conditions and that Panama hopes that this measure will contribute to world peace. Aristides Royo met this afternoon with the former Iranian monarch on Contadora Island, where the former emperor has lived since Saturday 15 December when he arrived in Panama.

Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, looking healthy but thin, thanked President Royo for his hospitality and showed interest in Panamanian affairs which were explained by the president. The former monarch told the Panamanian president that in his opinion, the Ayatollah Khomeyni does not control Iran and that Iranians are displeased with the policies implemented by the present regime. Asked if financial aspects had been discussed, President Royo said they had been and that he had given the shah a brief explanation of Panama's banking system. However, he reasserted that the presence of the former Iranian monarch is not tied to any conditions, much less to investments in this country.

The 30-minute interview was attended by the two wives, Panama's first lady Adela de Royo and former Iranian Empress Farah Diba the "Sadanu," who for many years was one of the best-known and most envied women in the world's high society. The interview was held on the terrace overlooking the sea of the former shah's residence on Contadora Island. It is surrounded by armed security guards and multiple electronic surveillance equipment.

Other matters mentioned in the interview were the health of the former Iranian monarch, aspects of his stay in the United States, the Iranian situation and Mexico's refusal to receive him again. Asked by ACAN-EFE why instead of having the former monarch visit him at the presidential palace he had gone to Contadora, Royo said: "I did it out of deference. He is not in good health and I am in perfect health."

It was the first contact between Mohammed Reza Pahlavi and the Panamanian president who was on an official tour of Chiriqui Province in the western part of the country when the former monarch arrived in Panama.

Iran Threatens Oil Embargo

PA170131 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0032 GMT 17 Dec 79 PA

[By Francisco Rubiales]

[Excerpt] Panama City, 16 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Following Iran's decision today to suspend petroleum shipments to Panama, official sources told ACAN-EFE that "Panama does not fear the wrath of the Ayatollah Khomeyni and that the decision does not affect the country."

Iranian Petroleum Minister Ali Akbar Mo'Infar said today in Caracas that Iran will not sell Panama petroleum because it has admitted the shah in its territory after he left the United States. According to the Iranian minister, the Panamanian and Iranian governments had reached an agreement some weeks ago for the sale of Iranian petroleum to Panama. However, a Panamanian official spokesman told ACAN-EFE that this is false, that Panama buys its petroleum from Venezuela and Ecuador and that no Panamanian mission had signed agreements of any kind with Iran on petroleum matters. Other Panamanian sources said that Panama is not defenseless against possible reprisals by the Ayatollah Khomeyni and that if pressure were to reach a critical level, Panama could bring "considerable" forces into play which would counteract any Iranian offensive.

One of the future measures Panama could take if Iran unleased unbearable pressure would be the boycott of Iranian goods by Panamanian registered ships. Panama has the seventh largest merchant marine fleet in the world. Panamanian registered ships sail all over the world carrying cargo and a boycott by Panamanian registered ships sailing to or out of Iran, although not catastrophic, would cause considerable loss to the Iranian economy. Another measure Panama could take to counter any possible Iranian pressure would be to prohibit any ship carrying Iranian goods from using the Panama Canal. Some 40 ships transit the Panama Canal daily. This makes this artificial waterway between the two oceans one of the most heavily traveled seaways in the world and crucial to world trade. Finally Panama, which is a financial center with over 9 banks from all over the world, could take steps to hamper Iranian international transactions.

Shah, Royo News Conference

PA170437 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0129 GMT 17 Dec 79 PA

[Report on 16 December news conference on Contadora Island given by the shah of Iran and Panamanian President Aristides Royo to international newsmen; shah's answers given in English with superimposed Spanish translation]

[Text] President Royo arrived in Contadora Island at 1640 where he met with the shah of Iran. Before the meeting a news conference was held in which it was said that Panama based its decision to give asylum to the shah on humanitarian principles and its dedication to neutrality. It was also learned that the shah may establish his base of operations in Panama.

[Begin shah of Iran recording] As I said yesterday when I arrived in this country, I want to express my deep gratitude for the gracious invitation of the Republic of Panama, its president and General Torrijos. In fact, from the moment we set foot on this land we have felt as if we were at home, if I could say so. This is Panama's tradition of hospitality and a humanitarian view of problems. You have examples in the past of how Panama has always shown these qualities. So once again I want to express my gratitude to this wonderful people and to wish that its people and government enjoy a better future with progress and happiness and the attainment of all its wishes. [end recording]

He was asked how he felt and he replied: [begin recording] Well I will have to wait a few weeks before I can speak with assurance. But for the present I feel much better. [end recording]

He was asked if this meant that he will stay in Panama and he replied:

[Begin recording] Undoubtedly this is in our minds; such scenery and hospitality are hard to match in many places. But if things return to normal I could go in one direction or another. But this is a place where at least we know how we will be treated. [end recording]

He was asked when the rest of his family will arrive and he replied: [begin recording] Yes I hope so. I cannot tell you for sure, but I hope it will be soon. [end recording]

He was asked for his reaction when he learned of the hostages and he replied: [begin recording] We were so shocked when we learned about the hostages that we offered to leave the New York hospital when I was still under treatment in order to help solve the problem. Now that I have left the United States and come to this beautiful country, we hope this will help solve the problem. We hope it will help. [end recording]

We thanked the shah of Iran.

[Begin Recording] [Royo] I believe we explained yesterday why Panama invited the shah of Iran to come to our country. We are a politically independent country. We are a country with a canal that has a neutrality treaty and a country that feels neutral. We are a country that received support from practically all the countries of the world with regard to the canal cause and we are a country with a great inclination toward peace. In this case Panama thought that it could help reestablish a rather shaky peace. This is why we did it. We trust that the invitation made to the shah will be a positive benefit to this peace.

[Question] Mr President, don't you think that this could cause Iran at the OPEC meeting tomorrow to propose to the 13 OPEC countries some type of economic sanction against our country that will compel the United States to see our action? [question as heard]

[Answer] We do not think so. We would rather think that the OPEC countries will not take any reprisals against Panama. We think this because the spirit of peace, justice and humanitarianism shown by Panama does not deserve such an attitude. We believe that OPEC is a serious organization and would not try to misinterpret, belittle or distort the meaning of the attitude assumed by Panama in this matter.

[Question] Mr President, do you think that this could affect the signing of the neutrality treaty which has not been signed by all the countries yet?

[Answer] We believe the opposite is true. This action taken by Panama with regard to Shah Mohammed Reza Phalavi reasserts our neutrality. Because of this neutrality, this canal, this place of transit open to the flags of all countries, Panama was just the country to take such a measure.

[Question] Mr President, there is one detail. [Words indistinct] that this Panamanian action, which up to this moment has been noted in its foreign policy by its support to the peoples which began their liberation struggles, as in the Nicaraguan case for example--how can the attitude in this case be construed the attitude toward Iran which has just [words indistinct].

[Answer] The attitude should not be considered an attitude in favor of Iran and much less an attitude against Iranians. Panama is not an enemy of the Iranian Government and much less the enemy of the Iranian people. We must consider this an attitude toward a person, a person who is in ill health and has had a series of problems. We must see it as a personal or individual attitude and not a collective attitude toward a people or government. This is an attitude assumed by a country to solve a difficult situation in the world. It is a very difficult situation. Proof of this is that the whole world has been concerned over the matter of the hostages and the matter of the dislocation of peace.

[Question] Mr President, what do you believe could be the worst repercussion toward Panama within this calculated risk which could affect the Tehran hostages.

[Answer] We would rather not make predictions since we believe that there will be no reaction toward Panama, but we would naturally be prepared to take proper action.

[Question] Do you believe this will help solve the crisis now affecting the world because of the hostages in Tehran?

[Answer] We acted believing that it would help. And I think that it has contributed and believe that sooner or later the decisions adopted will very much reflect the invitation made by Panama and our government's action.

[Question] Mr President, was there at any time a petition by President Carter or any other high-ranking U.S. official to Panama to grant the shah asylum?

[Answer] In January we spoke with some persons close to the shah. As a matter of fact, some persons did come. We can say it now: his son, the prince, came as well as (Mr Sagel). They came to Contadora and visited an area known as Bambito and Cerro Punta at our invitation. Panama is a land of promise; it is a country always open to immigration. It has been open to persons with political problems. We had [words indistinct] since that time, but the shah's health did not allow it. But at this time we did talk with the U.S. President regarding the arrival of President Carter. [sentence as heard] We told him we wanted the shah to come to Panama, that we felt that the shah's presence was causing him problems and that we could help solve it by means of this invitation. [end recording]

SLIGHT EARTH TREMOR REPORTED; NO CASUALTIES, DAMAGE

WA152053 London REUTER in English 2021 GMT 15 Dec 79 WA

[Text] Panama City, Dec 15, REUTER--A slight earth tremor shook Panama early today but no casualties or damaage were reported. Government sources said they believed it may have been an aftershock of the earthquake which struck Colombia on Wednesday, killing some 300 people.

BRIEFS

TOTAL SUGAR EXPORTS--According to a report supplied by Darien Ayala, general director of La Victoria sugar corporation, our country has exported 20.5 million balboas worth of sugar this year. The country had exported 142,093 metric tons of sugar up until 30 November. Panama will meet its sugar quota, that is, another 15,000 metric tons by the end of the year. [Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 6 Dec 79 p 8 PA]

SUGAR EXPORTS TO U.S.--It was reported today that Panama has exported 150,000 metric tons of sugar, worth 20 million balboas, to the United States of America. [Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 7 Dec 79 PA]

MERCHANT MARINE FLEET--According to an annual report prepared by Lloyd's Register of Shipping on the activities of the world's merchant marine, Panama placed second in the growth rate of its merchant marine for the second consecutive year. Thus, it now has the seventh-largest merchant marine fleet, right behind the Soviet Union. [Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 3 Dec 79 pp A-1, B-12 PA]

BELIZE

PAPER CITES UDP TACTICS TO OVERTHROW PUP GOVERNMENT

FL141525 Belize City THE BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 9 Dec 79 p 2 FL

[Unattributed editorial entitled: "UDP Introduces Communist Tactics"]

[Text] In their undemocratic reaction to the results of the free and democratic national elections in Belize, malcontents of the UDP [United Democratic Party] are using well-known communist tactics to try to overthrow the constitutionally and democratically elected government of the People's United Party [PUP].

The use of communist tactics should come as no surprise because the UDP finances came in part from the sources of Jim Jones who left his money for communist parties.

These tactics are (1) walk out from meetings, (2) rejection of the democratic process and (3) abuse of young students.

Tactic (1): This began in our time by the walk out of the Russian communist foreign minister at the United Nations General Assembly some years ago. Since then the communists have used it. On Friday, November 21st, the UDP members of the Belize National Assembly walked out of the National Assembly as his excellency the governor was about to read the government speech. This walkout was timed to occur after the UDP members took an oath thus publicly accepting the results of the elections and making sure they would get their allowance pay.

Tactic (2): In the early days of the Russian communist revolution, the Communist Party rejected the election of the new revolutionary government and by force of arms and by violence they seized power. Even since then the rejection of democratic elections have been used by the communists when it suits their objectives.

We see the UDP malcontents using this same tactic when they refuse to accept the victory of the PUP at the polls. This undemocratic behaviour is a contradiction because some UDP leaders willingly were sworn in to form the National Assembly and thereby they publicly accepted in their oath the results of the elections. At the same time, the same leaders and their colleagues protested the results of the elections.

Tactic (3): This well-known tactic of indoctrinating and using young students to do their dirty work is employed by communists when it suits their purpose. We see the same tactic being used by the UDP malcontents who abuse the inexperience and the innocence of young people to do their dirty work.

Those who have eyes to see and who have minds to understand can now realize how fortunate the Belizean people are that the UDP malcontents did not win the elections. The Belizean people have been spared oppression by dishonest and corrupt practices and the use of communist tactics by a party in government.

COSTA RICA

HONDURAN FOREIGN MINISTER CONCLUDES 3-DAY VISIT

PA142222 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1547 GMT 14 Dec 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, 14 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Honduran Foreign Minister Eliseo Perez Cadalso today concluded a 3-day visit to San Jose where he completed an extensive agenda which included meetings with high-ranking officials of President Rodrigo Carazo Odio's government.

Perez Cadalso left Costa Rica at 0900 (1500 GMT) after several meetings with his Costa Rican counterpart, Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier. He also met with President Carazo and visited local and international institutions based here.

Perez Cadalso visited the Inter-American Human Rights Court and the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. He asked the tribunal for advice concerning the elections to be held in Honduras in April, 1980.

Perez Cadalso and Calderon Fournier signed a joint declaration which rejected totalitarianism as a form of government and stated that democracy is the only system which meets the aspirations of contemporary man.

The declaration maintains that democracy "is the only system which permits people to attain political maturity and social and economic progress by emphasizing the dignity of the human being."

The two ministers also pledged to defend human rights and condemn violence, terrorism and repression. To this end, they promised to work together to insure that the Inter-American Human Rights Court exercises its authority. This body is "the ideal mechanism to safeguard the existence and proper enforcement of man's essential freedoms."

UNION CHIEF DENIES CUBAN INDOCTRINATION IN NICARAGUA

PA151736 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 12 Dec 79 PA

[Excerpt] San Jose, Costa Rica--Costa Rican Teachers Union chairman Luis Eduardo Nunez has said the Cuban teachers who arrived in Nicaragua are not involved in ideological indoctrination programs, as has been reported. Cuban teachers working in Nicaragua are funded by their own government and are conducting routine work; they are not engaged in special programs or ideological indoctrination, as has been mistakenly reported, Nunez said.

He added that the spirit of the teachers is admirable. He returned from Managua this week.

STANDARD FRUITWORKERS CALL STRIKE

PA141650 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Dec 79 PA

[Text] The workers of the Standard Fruit Company at La Estrella Valley and Rio Frio met last night and decided to call a general strike, the secretary of the Limon Agricultural Workers Union, Hermino (Dover), has announced.

He added that the union leaders explained to the workers the negotiations they have conducted with the company and with the Labor Ministry concerning the dismissals and suspensions resulting from an erroneous interpretation of the work schedules.

(Dover) added that they are willing to negotiate the issue of the work schedule, provided the union's proposal is accepted. According to the collective bargaining contract, the banana workers are to work 7 hours, and therefore they do not accept the company's interpretation of an 8-hour schedule, (Dover) explained. He pointed out the workers do not want to strike, but that if they do not get a satisfactory solution to their problem they will go on strike.

The Standard fruit workers have empowered their Central Committee to call the strike the moment it deems it necessary, (Dover) said, adding that the Central Committee will meet this week to decide on the hour and date of the strike. The workers are ready to face the consequences, (Dover) concluded.

EL SALVADOR

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS TO BE ESTABLISHED WITH ROMANIA, SFRY

PA142358 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1552 GMT 14 Dec 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--El Salvador will establish diplomatic and trade relations with Yugoslavia and Romania and it is for this reason Deputy Foreign Minister Hector Oqueli Colindres will go to Mexico today. In Mexico Oqueli Colindres will sign two documents with the respective embassies whose offices for Central America are located in Mexico City.

The negotiations for the signing of the documents were made by Guillermo Paz Larin, Salvadoran ambassador to Mexico.

El Salvador has been having trade relations with these and other socialist countries for several years through bilateral agreements. Oqueli Colindres said that with the opening of diplomatic relations with Romania and Yugoslavia, El Salvador's international dimensions will become wider.

It was reported that the Salvadoran official will take the opportunity to meet with members of the Mexican Foreign Secretariat and discuss common matters within the friendly relations which have always existed between the two nations.

GOVERNMENT AGREES TO RETURN NICARAGUAN PROPERTY

PA160023 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 9 Dec 79 p 10 PA

[Text] Representatives of the Salvadoran revolutionary junta and the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua have signed a document in which they comply with the will expressed by the leaders of the two countries regarding the return of Nicaraguan property that is in El Salvador. According to the official report, the property in question includes planes, ships and some war materiel.

According to the document, the return of these items is subject to certain conditions which include:

A. In the case of the DC-3 plane No HC-SJL-01, the Nicaraguan Government will submit an official note to the Salvadoran Government stating that this plane accidentally violated Salvadoran airspace. The Nicaraguan Government will also present a note proving that it owns the plane in question. For its part the Salvadoran Government promised to deliver the plane to Nicaraguan authorities free of any responsibility and taxes.

B. Regarding the other items, the Salvadoran Government recognizes that the Nicaraguan Government has satisfactorily proved that it owns them.

The document states that the property will be delivered to the scheduled places by the Salvadoran Air Force and Navy in La Union.

The materiel has been seized by the Salvadoran authorities from Nicaraguan citizens who arrived in the country fleeing from Nicaragua in the wake of the revolutionary government in that country.

Attorney General Ernesto Castillo Martinez, Commander Raul Veneiro, chief of the Sandinist air force and antiaircraft defense, and Commander Leopoldo Rivas, chief of the military service of the General Staff of the Sandinist Peoples Army, signed the document on behalf of Nicaragua. Presidency Minister Ruben Ignacio Zamora Rivas, Finance Minister Ernesto Arbizu Mata, Attorney General Alfredo del Transito Monge Menjivar and Defense Under Secretary Nicolas Carranza H. signed the document on behalf of El Salvador.

THREE DEMONSTRATIONS HELD IN SUPPORT OF VARIOUS DEMANDS

PA150404 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0233 GMT 15 Dec 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Three demonstrations by different organizations today marched through the streets of San Salvador in support of various demands made to ministries or the revolutionary government junta.

The Movement of Revolutionary High School Students (MERS) demonstrated in front of the Education Ministry and several leaders met with Antonio Uribe, under secretary of youth, culture and sports. They told Uribe that the MERS is asking for the mass entrance of all students in the country's education centers, elimination of registration fees and reduction of tuition if it is charged.

The Revolutionary Association of Secondary School Students (ARDES) staged a demonstration for the release of political prisoners and missing persons and other demands.

The Peoples Forum held a march to the presidential house to deliver its demands to the junta. It demanded at least a 40 percent minimum wage increase and it demanded that seasonal farmworkers be permitted to immediately organize to oversee the implementation of the minimum wages. It also demanded at least a 30 percent reduction in rents of urban housing and commercial buildings and a decrease in the prices of staple products.

The demonstrators also demanded the extradition, capture and trial of Gen Carlos Humberto Romero, Col Arturo Armando Molina, the defense ministers and deputy ministers and chiefs of the security corps and other secret agencies during the two previous administrations.

Junta Spokesmen said that the government will bear in mind all the demands and that some of them are already included in official plans.

GUERRILLAS OCCUPY CITY, KILL 1, WHIP POLICE CHIEF

PA141601 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1520 GMT 14 Dec 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--The city of Nejapa, 24 km north of here, was occupied last night by some 50 leftist guerrillas who killed the foreman of an estate.

Preliminary reports indicate that the occupation was carried out by young male and female members of the Popular Liberation Forces. They were dressed in olive green, wore handkerchiefs over their faces and were armed with machineguns and revolvers.

They blocked access roads to the city and took over the offices of the National Communications Administration (ANTEL), where they tied up employee Carlos Hernandez and later took him to the central park.

Other persons were taken to the park: Francisco Donado, chief of the municipal police; foreman Pablo Guardado of the Mapilapa estate, which is owned by the Borja Nathan family; night watchman Jesus Jovel; barber Oscar Jovel Guerra, and a son of the police chief.

Some 400 persons had gathered in the park, summoned over loudspeakers by the insurgents.

According to witnesses, the guerrillas asked what should be done with the overseer and some youths shouted that he should be executed. They immediately shot him in front of everyone in the park.

They then asked what should be done with the police chief and the same youths called for him to be whipped. The guerrillas then forced the policeman to take off his shirt and proceeded to whip him. Before leaving the rebels moved all the furniture from the city hall into the street and set fire to it.

GUATEMALA

MILITARY FORCES PURSUE GUERRILLAS INVOLVED IN KILLINGS

PA142235 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1701 GMT 14 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Combined air and land forces today were pursuing the guerrilla cell that killed three Guatemalan soldiers on Wednesday, including a junior officer, in Solola, a western department.

The guerrilla group, from the Armed People's Organization (ORPA), attacked one of the patrols which had been searching for it. The guerrilla group had terrorized the town of Santa Lucia Utatlan for several hours.

The army public relations attache today said the search operation is being conducted by land and air troops. He did not say whether there was any possibility of new contacts with the clandestine leftist group which, along with the Poor People's Guerrilla Army (EGP), has been one of the most active guerrilla groups in recent months.

Both subversive groups have operated more frequently in western provinces. The armed clash on Wednesday was the third in less than a month, although the other clashes went against the guerrilla groups. Eight guerrillas were killed in the previous clashes.

HONDURAS

TIEMPO URGES NORMAL RELATIONS WITH NICARAGUA

PA150111 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1651 GMT 13 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 13 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--The Honduran TIEMPO said in its editorial today that "the time has come" to establish normal relations with Nicaragua since it has been determined that both countries have the best intentions of doing so.

The newspaper notes that there is no "reason for an official break and much less reason to create tension and deploy armed forces at their common border."

The editorial suggests that following Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto's visit to Tegucigalpa this week, tensions have been eased and the conditions have been established to begin the process of returning to normal relations.

TIEMPO suggests that the two governments, which have different political regimes, should review the problem of coexistence which they share as neighbors in the midst of an "unstable and violence racked" Central America.

The editorial said that peaceful coexistence between the two countries will help to turn the statements of good will into actions of mutual respect between the two governments.

"Development and military preparation are incompatible. Either we attend to development or spend financial resources on war materiel. In view of Central American limitations, both cannot be done at the same time."

The editorial adds that people are interested in domestic and foreign peace and that governments must meet these demands.

"Peace based on mutual respect does not offend national dignity and pride; on the contrary, peaceful coexistence uplifts them," the editorial concludes.

NICARAGUA

FSLN LEADERS VISIT U.S., TALK TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

PA160444 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Dec 79 PA

[Angelita Zavallos telephone report from Washington--presumably recorded]

[Excerpt] Stressing that the people of Nicaragua have a right to self-determination and therefore are entitled to choose their own solutions to their problems, Commanders Jaime Wheelock, Victor Tirado and Rene Nunez, representing the leadership of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], yesterday ended a frank conversation with U.S. congressmen who are currently debating in the U.S. Congress a $75-million loan to Nicaragua.

Mostly receptive, the congressmen showed frank interest in Nicaragua's revolutionary process, asking a variety of questions on foreign policy, human rights, the situation of private enterprise and possibilities for foreign investment.

At all times, the replies of the commanders were clear and dignified and after the talks ended they were congratulated by the congressmen.

The FSLN leaders held talks both with members of the Foreign Relations and Aid Committees.

In reply to a question on whether a totalitarian dictatorship would replace Somoza's dictatorship, the commanders said that no predictions should be made nor should the Nicaraguan process be interpreted objectively. [sentence as heard] Facts are most important, said Commander Wheelock, adding that even if the Nicaraguan Government took the path of socialism, he could not see how this could endanger the security of the United States.

Wheelock commented that there had been interventions in Nicaragua several times, but he was sure that this time, the United States intends to do everything via the path of peace, concord and understanding.

The commanders mentioned their intention to maintain relations of friendship with all the nations of the world and that they felt very close to the governments of Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela and Cuba. This reply came while answering the congressmen's questions about Nicaragua's foreign policy, specifically toward Cuba.

Some congressmen had distorted information about what is really occurring within the revolution. They believed that the collective resignation of the government of national reconstruction, which was announced here, meant a political crisis. They were told that it is part of a move to reorganize ministries and relocate ministers within the present context of the revolutionary government. Up to now, the structure of the previous cabinet had been followed.

On the nationalization of mines, the commanders denied that that was part of a plan to nationalize private enterprise, as some of the congressmen had been informed.

In their observations, the revolutionary leaders said that 60 percent of the $75-million loan that is now being debated would be used to reactivate the private sector. They added that the laws of Nicaragua have always established that the state owns the natural resources; all that had existed before the nationalization was a concession contract for the exploitation of mines.

Following the talk with the congressmen, Senators Edwards, (?Zorinsky) and Hollings talked at length with Commanders Tirado, Wheelock and Nunez. They discussed the confidence that should exist regarding the revolutionary process, which is responsible for using all the loans to enable Nicaragua to return to normal living conditions.

However, Commander Victor Tirado pointed that only the Nicaraguan people can achieve the Nicaraguan revolution's goals.

Previously, in a gesture that was considered unprecedented by those who know him, Senator Hollings of South Carolina told Commander Tirado that he will vote in favor of the $75-million loan in view of the sensible reply given to one of his questions.

The visit of Commanders Wheelock, Tirado and Nunez began in Washington with a meeting of the Latin American Solidarity Organization [LASO], an organization which during the entire struggle was active in supporting the present government of Nicaragua. During this meeting with the members of LASO, the FSLN leaders thanked the organization for all the work it had done during the most difficult period of Nicaragua's revolution.

The leaders also held meetings with the human rights secretariat, the agriculture secretariat and with a representative of the AID.

D'ESCOTO LEAVES FOR GROUP OF 77 MEETING IN HAVANA

PA151631 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 15 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Companero Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto leaves today for Havana, Cuba, to attend the meeting of the Group of 77, La Voz de Nicaragua has been told by the Foreign Ministry news department.

The foreign minister will be accompanied by Companero Alejandro Bermudez Alegria, adviser to the minister, and by Jorge (Gallegues) Chacon, the minister's assistant.

The Group of 77 is part of the nonalined underdeveloped countries that have been seeking a new economic order. These countries also want the understanding of, and help from, the developed countries.

Our delegation will be in the sister nation for 3 days. At the meeting it will report on the important aspects of our revolution.

Our country is a member of the nonalined movement.

DEBT MISSION REPORTS RESULTS OF MEXICO MEETING

PA161915 Paris AFP in Spanish 2208 GMT 15 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Dec (AFP)--Representatives of 60 international commercial banks have tacitly accepted Nicaragua's proposals for the renegotiation of its foreign debt with them, it was announced here today.

Alfredo Cesar, director of Nicaragua's Reconstruction Fund, Joaquin Cuadra Chamorro, finance minister, Antonio Cruz, Central Bank Director, and Roberto Mallorga, planning minister, announced this at a press conference after meeting with bankers from the United States, Europe and Japan.

The Nicaraguan officials reported that the representatives of Nicaragua's private creditors have agreed to form a 12-member negotiating commission. It will be in charge of discussing the specific terms of the renegotiation with the Sandinist government.

The Somoza regime had incurred a foreign debt of $1.66 billion, of which $490 million is owed to private banks. This is the debt being renegotiated now. Three-fourths of the $490-million debt was incurred with U.S. banks, 15 percent with European banks and the rest with Japanese banks.

According to Alfredo Cesar, the bankers received the Nicaraguan revolutionary government's renegotiation proposal with surprise and admiration.

The official representatives announced that Nicaragua will not sacrifice the transformations needed in the country to pay a debt incurred by a government which was not concerned about the people, but it promised to assume the debt under more flexible and just conditions.

While General Somoza obtained loans with a 15-percent annual interest rate, the revolutionary government has already obtained $220 million in foreign loans for a 32-year term and a 9-year grace period and an average interest of 4 percent a year, the Nicaraguan officials stressed.

They explained that during the meetings the creditors indicated that the Sandinist government's 1980 development plans are appropriate.

Nicaragua's current economic team hopes to increase the gross domestic product 20-22 percent in comparison to 1979, when growth dropped by 25 percent. It also foresees a decrease in the current inflation rate of 100 percent to 15 percent in 1980. The plans include reduction of the current unemployment rate of 32 percent to 20 percent with the creation of 90,000 new jobs.

Joaquin Cuadra Chamorro said Nicaragua now has a good credit standing in the world because of confidence in the revolutionary government's recovery plans.

Alfredo Cesar noted that the banks in Nicaragua approved the nationalization of their sector because it saved them from the huge losses which the bankruptcy of the entire system would have entailed.

He added that the international financial sectors also have the same opinion regarding the nationalization of foreign trade since they are confident the measure will enable the government to obtain the foreign exchange needed to meet its foreign commitments.

JUNTA NOT OPPOSED TO PRIVATE ENTERPRISE IN RECONSTRUCTION

PA141639 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0330 GMT 14 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Representatives of the national and international private sector met this afternoon with companeros of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, commander of the revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra and Sergio Ramirez Mercado.

The meeting took place on the occasion of the international conference of the Chamber of Commerce of the Americas being held in Managua. The conference is being attended by representatives of the International Labor Organization, the International Organization of Employers and special delegates from Brazil, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, the United States and Spain.

The government junta companeros thanked the participants for holding this congress in our country. They said the revolutionary government is not against private enterprise as long as it helps in the reconstruction of our fatherland and cooperates in the formation of a more just society where wealth will be distributed among all sectors.

Commander Daniel Ortega said: In this new phase, the private enterprise sector has to reduce its earnings in favor of the working class because our people gave blood and made sacrifices for a more just society and the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction has made that commitment to the people. This commitment is beginning to be fulfilled, he noted.

ROBELO SAYS NEXT 6 MONTHS WILL BE HARD, URGES AUSTERITY

PA161954 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Dec 79 p 12 PA

[Text] Alfonso Robelo, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, last night predicted that the next 6 months will be hard for the country and asked all Nicaraguans to subject themselves to strict austerity in order to overcome the difficult situation the country is facing.

Speaking at a rally in Ciudad Jardin Park last night, Robelo urged women to use less cosmetics or use those produced locally. He asked the people to use less fuel and use buses more. He said the importing of big cars will be limited and perhaps they might not return to the country.

Robelo stressed the large foreign debt of $1.5 billion which Somozism left and which is equivalent to an annual debt of 600 cordobas for each Nicaraguan. He said this is the main cause of the country's economic situation. "It is as if we incurred a huge debt to pay for our house and then it was bombed," he said. "We were left without a house and with a big debt."

Robelo said the Nicaraguans must rid themselves of the selfishness promoted by Somozism and think more in social terms. He said we must be aware that only 400,000 people out of the 8000,000 economically active popukation have jcbs. The rest are employed or have temporary jobs. We must sacrifice ourselves for those people, he said, adding that "it is just that we do so."

He said the country will have to make huge expenditures to purchase fuel and asked people to save energy. He added that the government will improve mass transportation to help save energy.

BRIEFS

RETURN OF JUNTA MEMBER--Mrs Violeta Chamorro, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, has returned to the country following her visit to Tokyo and Osaka, Japan. She was a guest at the international meeting of women in support of the peaceful and independent reunification of Korea. Mrs Chamorro represented the Latin American women. [Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Dec 79 p 9 PA]

TELEPHONE IMPORTS BAN--The National Telecommunications and Postal Directorate [TELCOR] has issued a communique informing the people that importing single-line telephones for domestic use is banned. These telephones, the communique added, are being exclusively imported by TELCOR, and it is the only body authorized to sell them. [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Dec 79 PA]

SUGARCANE HARVEST--The four Nicaraguan state-owned sugar mills should produce 1.5 million quintals of sugar this harvest. The mills were formerly owned by the Somoza family. Sugar production this year will be 700,000 less [quintals] than the previous year. However, the privately owned San Antonio sugar mill produces more than the four government-owned mills. [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Dec 79 PA]

COUNCIL OF STATE DECIDES MINISTERIAL CHANGES

FL151237 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 15 Dec 79 FL

[Text] By decision of the Council of State Comrades Antonio Enrique Lusson Batlle and Jose A. Gutierrez Muniz have been removed from their posts. The first was minister of transportation and the other minister of public health. Both comrades will be assigned other functions. Comrade Guillermo Garcia Frias has been designated minister of transportation, retaining the post of vice president of the Council of Ministers.

By decision of the Council of State Sergio del Valle Jimenez has been designated minister of transportation, retaining the post of vice president of the Council of Ministers.

By decision of the Council of State Sergio del Valle Jimenez has been designated minister of public health, ceasing in his obligations as minister of the interior. Ramiro Valdes Menendez will assume the post of minister of the interior, retaining the post of vice president of the Council of Ministers. Jose Lopez Moreno has been designated vice president of the Council of Ministers, retaining his current post of minister of construction.

COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH IRAQ

FL150135 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Dec 79 FL

[Text] Cuba and Iraq this afternoon signed a protocol that includes important agreements in the fields of trade, cooperation and construction as a result of talks held in the course of the first meeting of the Cuban-Iraqi intergovernmental joint commission.

The document was signed for the Cuban side by Hector Rodriguez Llompart, member of the party Central Committee and minister-president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, and for the Iraqi side it was signed by Hasan 'Ali, member of the Revolution Command Council and minister of trade.

Other aspects stressed at the talks between the two countries were fisheries, transportation, agriculture, industry and public health.

Foreign Trade Minister Marcelo Fernandez and the respective ambassadors to Cuba and Iraq, among others, attended the signing ceremony.

SYRIAN MILITARY DELEGATION ENDS VISIT

FL150144 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Dec 79 FL

[Text] The high-level military delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic headed by Lt Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Syrian Armed Forces, has left for home after an official visit to Cuba.

The distinguished visitors were seen off by Div Gen Senen Casas Regueiro, first vice-minister-chief of the [Revolutionary Armed Forces, FAR] General Staff, and Sixto Batista Santana, vice minister-chief of the FAR Central Political Directorate, both members of the party Central Committee.

During its stay in our country, the Syrian military delegation was received by our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and Army Gen Raul Castro. It also visited military schools and units.

BAHAMAS

1980 BUDGET PASSED; PINDLING CHASTISES SOLOMON

FL141441 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 14 Dec 79 FL

[Text] The government's budget for 1980 was unanimously passed in the House of Assembly early this morning. Members ended a marathon debate, which began on Monday, shortly after 0430 (0930 GMT).

Early last evening the prime minister made this contribution to the debate reading part of a letter he received from the leader of the official opposition, Mr Norman Solomon. The prime minister said Mr Solomon has yet to appreciate the difference between followers and leaders. Mr Pindling accused the opposition leader of wantonly jeopardizing the lives of Bahamian police and marines in a petty political trick.

The accusation had to do with Mr Solomon's involvement with a foreign agent and newsman. Mr Pindling says that the leader of the opposition had withheld material information on criminal activities within the Bahamas in a shabby and disgraceful attempt to gain political mileage. Mr Pindling promised that more information would be coming to light and said that he would have the greatest of difficulties in consulting with the leader of the opposition on matters concerning the security of this nation. This, he said, because Mr Solomon had demonstrated his lack of trust in the security forces of this country by his action.

PINDLING SAYS 'SOCIAL REVOLUTION' IS SERIOUS

FL141458 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 14 Dec 79 FL

[Text] Last evening the prime minister stressed the seriousness with which the government regards the proposed social revolution.

The social revolution, said Mr Pindling, has captured the imagination of many. He attributed the leader of the official opposition, Mr Norman Solomon, with hoping for its failure and the Member of Parliament for Cooper's Town, Mr Hubert Ingraham, with hoping for its success but believing it will fail. The success of the revolution, said the prime minister, will depend not only on what is done in the physical sense but that complete success will see a revolutionary change in the attitude of government and opposition politicians, their constituents and the public service.

Mr Pindling charged politicians to spend more time among the people and their wives to do more outside of appearing at official and other functions. Members of parliament, said the prime minister, have to be prepared to see the national good over constituency aims.

Advising members of the public service on their role in the revolution, he cautioned that it would demand a new attitude, a realization that elected representatives have a right to determine policy and that once that policy is determined it must be carried out without efforts to thwart it. In saying that, Mr Pindling said that the policy of the government in respect to the College of the Bahamas is still not being implemented and warned that the situation would not exist much longer.

JAMAICA

SEAGA REJECTS RULING PARTY'S ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS

FL141515 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Dec 79 p 1 FL

[Text] Opposition leader Edward Seaga said on Friday night that the Jamaica Labour Party [JLP] would not consider itself bound to any terms of new agreements made by the ruling PNP [People's National Party] if the JLP considered any such new agreements as "selling out the patrimony of the country."

Addressing the annual awards banquet for top exporters held by the Jamaica Manufactures' Association, at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, Mr. Seaga said that in desperation the government might yield to the temptation to take applications from foreign governments and countries and make new agreements not in the best interest of the country.

The JLP will not consider itself bound to any such agreement, the opposition leader said.

On the foreign reserves position, Mr. Seaga said these were down to $600 million and the liquid assets of the Bank of Jamaica by the end of December would be $9-million.

The year 1979 would be another one of negative growth, and Jamaica would hold the record of being the only country with seven consecutive years of negative growth, he declared.

"This government is going to end its day without achieving a single year of positive growth", he said, adding that the loss in reserves would be repeated next year.

On upheavals in the region, Mr. Seaga said that no one at the beginning of the year would have thought that the Caribbean would rise to international attention and focus, having established a reputation largely as being a place of beaches and beauty.

"It has been treated like a child growing up and is expected to show positive growth and orderly conduct", he said, adding that what has been happening recently indicated a growing instability and disorders with the result that the region was fast becoming the next "hot" spot of the world.

In a certain sense, Mr. Seaga said, this was the best thing that could have happened to the Caribbean, as it enabled others from outside to penetrate and look at the region other than just a place of "beaches and serenity".

BRIEFS

WORKERS PARTY ANNIVERSARY--The Workers Party of Jamaica [WPJ] commemorates the first anniversary of its founding with a series of events begining tomorrow and continuing until Saturday. The main commemorative events are to take place in rural Jamaica, with the high points being two public meetings, one in Lucea, Hanover on Thursday and the other at [name indistinct] Westmoreland on Friday. Both meetings are to be addressed by the general secretary of the WPJ, Trevor Munroe, local party leaders and overseas guests. Two of the overseas guests have already arrived in the island. They are an official of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, (Dmitriy Duravev), and an executive of the Caribbean Labor Congress, (Richard Hart). The delegation from the Communist Party of Cuba and the New Jewel Movement of Grenada are to arrive later this week. [Kingston Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Dec 79 FL]

FRENCH GUIANA

EUROPEAN SATELLITE-LAUNCHING ROCKET TEST FAILS

PA151445 Paris AFP in English 1436 GMT 15 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Kourou, French Guiana, Dec 15 (AFP)--The European Ariane rocket, a bid to break U.S. and Soviet domination of satellite-launching, failed to take off as scheduled on its first test flight here today. The launching has been postponed.

Next Launching Set

PA160507 Paris AFP in Spanish 0018 GMT 16 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Kourou, French Guiana, 15 Dec (AFP)--The persons responsible for launching the European rocket today announced that the next launching of the Ariane rocket will be between 24 and 30 December.

They have set 30 December as the deadline because after that day there is the danger that the walls of the site and the pipes will be corroded by the fuels in spite of the fact that they will be emptied. This chemical process may occur because the vector was started and the fuels got mixed, the persons responsible for the rocket reported. Moreover, 24 December was set as the earliest date for launching because 10 days are needed to study all the information gathered on the incident and to arrange the launching base and the vector after emptying the three stages of the missile.

MEXICO

GOVERNMENT REAFFIRMS DENIAL OF FORMER SHAH'S VISA

PA142333 Paris AFP in Spanish 2315 GMT 14 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Dec (AFP)--The Mexican Government today reaffirmed its decision not to allow the return of the former shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. The Foreign Secretariat issued a communique saying the Mexican Government's decision not to renew the former shah's tourist visa is firm and is not subject to reconsideration. The Foreign Secretariat issued the communique because the Mexican ambassador to the Phillippines had said Mexico might for humanitarian reasons reconsider its decision not to renew the former shah's tourist visa.

DEFENSE OFFICIAL KILLED IN HELICOPTER CRASH

PA142022 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2008 GMT 14 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Dec (LATIN)--The Mexican under secretary of national defense, Juan Antonio de la Fuente Rodriguez, and four other officials have been killed in a helicopter accident, the Defense Ministry reported today. The ministry announced in a communique that the general was on an inspection tour of Hiejutla, Veracruz, 250 km east of Mexico City, when his helicopter experienced a mechanical failure and crashed. General De la Fuente Rodriguez was appointed under secretary of defense in December 1976 when President Jose Lopez Portillo took office.